

he worked for 42-years and he remains a vital liaison in the department's outreach to the Hispanic/Latino community. Gonzalez was a long-time volunteer for Iowa's Latino Heritage Festival. He took over the reins of the festival as the executive director of Latino Resources Inc. in 2015, and has shaped the festival to what it is today.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a month-long celebration (Sept. 15 to Oct. 15). During this month, America celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively. There are 22 countries from Latin origin represented in Iowa.

The Latino/Hispanic community brings so much value to our state, and Joe's work with the Latino Heritage Festival is a great way to highlight that value. The festival provides the public with a family-oriented event filled with learning through music, dance, food, children's activities, arts, and cultural exhibits from various Central and South American countries. It also emphasizes the uniqueness of the culture by demonstrating the diversity within the Latino community. Lastly, it creates a venue to showcase Iowa-based performers, artisans, cultural craftsmen, and artifact producers.

Through distinct activities and exhibits, this event educates the youth and gives them a better understanding of the Latino culture, while teaching them tolerance and appreciation of diversity. Part of the mission for Iowa's Latino Heritage Festival is to give back to the community through academic scholarships to Iowa high school and college students. The festival last year presented nine \$1,000 scholarships to students.

Joe's hard work and dedication to uplifting the Latino/Hispanic community in Des Moines has changed the lives of countless young people in the area. He has helped folks understand why it is important to have a diverse community in Des Moines, and he puts a spotlight on all of the wonderful the Latino community has brought to the metro area. It is my pleasure to honor Joe Gonzalez as Iowan of the Week.

#### BARTAHOUSE

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize BartaHouse of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's 17th Annual Reinvestment Award.

The award is given to a Wheat Ridge business that has reinvested significant resources back into our community. BartaHouse is an eye-catching, four-room boutique hotel that offers an amazing rooftop with views of the

beautiful Rocky Mountains. In 2019, BartaHouse engaged in a full-scale renovation, rebuilding from the ground up. The renovations and modern decor continue to be a beautiful part of our community.

Congratulations to BartaHouse for being a leader in the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

#### GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK RESOLUTION

### HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise to express support for the designation of the week of September 19 through September 25, 2021 as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week."

#### HONORING AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT JULIUS JEFFERSON

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., for his service this past year as the national president of the American Library Association (ALA). A fourth-generation native of Washington, D.C., Julius received his bachelor's degree in history from Howard University and his master's degree in library science from the University of Maryland. As a librarian, Mr. Jefferson has spent his career committed to advocacy, information policy, diversity, equity and inclusion and professional and leadership development. In recognition of his leadership and dedication to librarianship, the members of the ALA elected Mr. Jefferson to be their 2020–2021 president.

Like so many of us, libraries have had to adapt to changing circumstances during the pandemic, and Julius provided extraordinary leadership throughout this time. Mr. Jefferson began his term as ALA president with a virtual tour of 12 libraries. The "Holding Space" tour is what he called a series of virtual conversations that highlighted the innovation and impact of a diverse range of libraries around the nation. The "Holding Space" tour engaged stakeholders, including elected officials at every level of government, to advocate for libraries and the communities they serve.

I note that many of us in Congress benefit directly from the work of Mr. Jefferson, who serves as a section head of the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress. Mr. Jefferson has also served as president of the national Freedom to Read Foundation and of the Washington, D.C. Library Association. As a member of several boards, including the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Mr. Jefferson has worked to diversify the profession of librarianship and elevate the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Once again, I want to congratulate Julius Jefferson on his term as President of the American Library Association.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RAYMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Raymore Presbyterian Church in Raymore, Missouri and to celebrate its 150th year of incorporation as a parish, which will be recognized on September 25th.

In November of 1871, the Raymore Presbyterian Church was officially organized, and their current church building was completed in 1895. It is now the oldest standing building in Raymore, Missouri. The parish soon began making positive impacts in their local community.

The Raymore Presbyterian Church parish expresses their love for their fellow neighbors by hosting an annual community food drive and by being supportive and comforting in the community. Since their church doors opened, they have continued with traditional hymnals, organ music, and a friendly and welcoming attitude.

So, as we approach the 150th anniversary of incorporation of the Raymore Presbyterian Church in Raymore, Missouri, let us celebrate what God has done through the numerous rectors and clergy and the faithful parishioners in the service of God, their community, and our Nation.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF BIRCHWOOD

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Birchwood, Minnesota. Residents gathered on September 10, 2021 to kick off its centennial celebration with a public reception at the village hall and unveiling of historic markers.

Located just north of Saint Paul in the Fourth Congressional District, this charming village hugs the southern shores of White Bear Lake. Originally part of Grant Township like many other small communities in Washington County, it became a part of Lincoln Township in 1918. Development in the area began to boom after the streetcar service was extended from Wildwood Park to White Bear Lake in 1904. This sparked a community of summer cottages for residents of Saint Paul, who would take the streetcar to vacation on White Bear Lake during the hot Minnesota summers. 100 years ago, in 1921, Birchwood was first incorporated as its own village, though the State Legislature later decided to convert the "village" to a "City of the Fourth Class." But the term "village" had stuck, and members of the community amended the official name to "Birchwood Village."

Throughout its history Birchwood Village has been a wonderful place to experience nature right outside of the bustling Twin Cities, attracting visitors to picturesque public parks and beaches, many of which remain today.